

## Message Text

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17-12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 ORM-03 SR-02 OMB-01 NEA-10 DRC-01 /134 W

----- 117074

R 281810Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7685

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USEC BRUSSELS 756

USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR, SP

SUBJ: PRESS ATTACKS ON FRENCH POLICY

REF: A) MADRID 7647, B) MADRID 5481,  
C) MADRID

1. IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE GOVERNMENT-STIMULATED CAMPAIGN, SPANISH PRESS HAS LEVELED SERIES OF SHARP CRITICISMS AGAINST GOF FOR ALLEGED COMPLACENCY TOWARD ACTIVITIES OF ETA TERRORISTS BASED IN SOUTHERN FRANCE. PRESS CAMPAIGN APPARENTLY TRIGGERED BY NEWS REPORTS DEC 22 OF PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY THREE ETA ACTIVISTS IN FRANCE, ONE OF WHOM IDENTIFIED AS ONE OF SIX PLOTTERS IMPLICATED IN ASSASSINATION OF CARRERO BLANCO (REF A).

2. BILBAO DAILIES GACETA DEL NORTE AND CORREO ESPANOL CARRIED EDITORIALS CHARGING THAT GOF AWARE SOUTHERN FRANCE IS BASE FOR ETA TERRORIST AND TAKES  
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ONLY HALF-HEARTED COUNTERMEASURES. BARCELONA'S LA

VANGUARDIA, IN EDITORIAL CALLED "CURIOUS FRIENDSHIP," CLAIMS ALL MISDEEDS OF ETA IN SPAIN HAVE ORIGINATED IN FRANCE UNDER EYES OF "BENOVOLENTLY DISTRACTED FRENCH POLICE." LA VANGUARDIA, LIKE SEVERAL OTHER DAILES, MADE POINT THAT MURDER OF CARRERO BLANCO WAS NOT POLITICAL BUT CRIMINAL ACT AND GOF MUST ACT ACCORDINGLY. VANGUARDIA COLUMNIST PREDICTED THAT FRENCH-SPANISH RELATIONS, WHICH HAVE IMPROVED SINCE BURGOS TERRORISM TRIALS IN 1970, WOULD BE SET BACK. YA (LIBERAL CATHOLIC) COLUMNIST LUIS APOSTUA WONDERED WHY FRENCH PRESS COULD INTERVIEW FUGITIVES BUT FRENCH POLICE COULD NOT.

3. PARIS CORRESPONDENTS OF VANGUARDIA AND YA FILED STORIES TRACING RECENT HISTORY OF FRENCH PROMISES TO GOS TO PREVENT BASQUE TERRORISTS FROM ABUSING RIGHT OF ASYLUM, EMPHASIZING STATEMENT OF INTERIOR MINISTER MARCELLIN TO FRENCH BASQUE DEPUTIES IN 1972 THAT REFUGEES MUST NOT PARTICIPATE IN ACTS AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER OR USE FRANCE AS BASE TO ACT AGAINST NEIGHBORS.

4. MADRID DAILY NUEVO DIARIO, WHICH PARTLY CONTROLLED BY FONMIN LOPEZ RODO AND AT TIMES REFLECTS MFA THINKING (REF C), CARRIED WELL DOCUMENTED, LEGALISTIC EDITORIAL DEC 28 WHICH CONCLUDED THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT "SERIOUSLY NEGLIGENT IN COMPLYING WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS" (CITING SPECIFIC UN RESOLUTIONS AND HUMANRIGHTS AGREEMENT AND ICJ DECISION ON RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF POLITICAL REFUGEES) IN CONTINUING TO ALLOW CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES OF ETA ON ITS TERRITORY.

5. CLEAR THAT PRESS STORM REFLECTS OFFICIAL IRRITATION WITH FRENCH, WHICH ANTEDATED CARRERO BLANCO ASSASSINATION BUT GREATLY AGGRAVATED BY IT. SOME OF PRESS COMMENTARY HAS ECHOED COMMENTS MADE PUBLICLY BY LOPEZ-RODO SUGGESTING THAT SPECIFIC FRENCH CONCESSIONS TO SPAIN ON CONCRETE ISSUES, SUCH AS ASSOCIATION WITH EEC, AT TIMES FAIL TO MATCH FRANCE'S RECENT EFFUSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARD SPAIN. PRESS CAMPAIGN COINCIDES WITH PRESENCE IN MADRID FOR CONSULTATIONS OF SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO PARIS WHO REPORTEDLY ASSISTING IN DEVELOP-

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MENT OF STRATEGY, INCLUDING PRESS TACTICS, TO PRESS FRENCH ON EXTRADITION.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARAMILITARY FORCES, BOMBING, PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** PRESS ATTACKS ON FRENCH POLICY  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, ELAB, SP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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